



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
Department of Planning and Development
D. M. Sugimura, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Application Number: 2401272
Applicant Name: Ron Meckler
Address of Proposal: 4409 California Avenue Southwest

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Master Use Permit to establish use for future installation of a minor communication utility (Cingular Wireless) on the rooftop of an existing six-story mixed use building. The proposed utility consists of five (5) panel antennas, with electrical equipment cabinets, to be situated on the rooftop.

SEPA DETERMINATION: ☐ Exempt ☐ DNS ☐ MDNS ☐ EIS
☒ DNS with conditions
☐ DNS involving non-exempt grading or demolition or
involving another agency with jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND DATA

Site and Area Description

The subject is located in a Neighborhood Commercial (NC2-65) zoned site, just off the southwest corner of the intersection of California Avenue Southwest and Southwest Genesee Street. The site contains a mixed use building, consisting of administrative offices and multifamily residential units.

Development in the Vicinity

This Neighborhood Commercial zone spans the length of the block, on both sides of California Avenue Southwest. The zone changes to Neighborhood Commercial (NC1-40) at Southwest Genesee Street to the north, and Neighborhood Commercial (NC3-85) at Southwest Oregon Street, to the south. Lowrise (L-3) is across the alley to the west. The uses along this portion of California Avenue Southwest are a mix of commercial and multifamily, multifamily units line the alley to the west.



Proposal Description

The applicant proposes to establish use for future installation of a minor communication utility on the roof of an existing mixed use building. The proposed utility consists of five (5) panel antennas. The project includes electronic equipment to be located in two cabinets, on the west side of the roof.

Public Comments

The public comment period for this project ended on June 9, 2004. No written comments were received.

SEPA ANALYSIS

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist submitted by the applicant dated March 24, 2004 and annotated by the Department. Information in the checklist was supplemented by documentation by William F. Hammett, P.E. with Hammett & Edison, Inc., Consulting Engineers that certifies that the proposed installation will comply with FCC regulations regarding EMR emissions. The information in the checklist, supplemental information provided by the applicant (floor plans and details) and the experience of the lead agency with review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665 D) clarifies the relationship between the codes, policies, and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, certain neighborhood plans and other policies explicitly referenced may serve as the basis for exercising substantive SEPA authority. The Overview Policy states, in part: *"Where City regulations have been adopted to address environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation,"* subject to some limitations. Thus, the mitigation that may be required pursuant to SEPA authority is limited.

Short Term Impacts

Environmental Health

The applicant has submitted a "Statement of Federal Communication Commission Compliance for Personal Wireless Service Facility" and an accompanying "Affidavit of Certification for this proposed facility giving the calculations of radio frequency power density at roof, parapet and ground levels expected from this proposal and attesting to the qualifications of the Professional Engineer who made this assessment. This complies with the Seattle Municipal Code Section 25.10.300 that contains Electromagnetic Radiation standards with which the proposal must conform. The Department's experience with review of this type of installation is that the EMR emissions constitute a small fraction of that permitted under both Federal standards and the standards of SMC 25.10.300.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has pre-empted state and local governments from regulating personal wireless service facilities on the basis of environmental effects of radio frequency emissions. As such, no mitigation measures are warranted pursuant to the SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 23.05.665).

Construction and Noise Impacts

Codes and development regulations applicable to this proposal will provide sufficient mitigation for most impacts. The initial installation of the antennas may include loud equipment and activities. This construction activity may have an adverse impact on nearby residences. Due to the close proximity of nearby residences, the Department finds that the limitations of the Noise Ordinance are inadequate to appropriately mitigate the adverse noise impacts associated with the proposal. The SEPA Construction Impact policies, (SMC 25.05.675.B) allow the Director to limit the hours of construction to mitigate adverse noise and other construction-related impacts. Therefore, the proposal is conditioned to limit construction activity to non-holiday weekday hours between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Long Term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of approval of this proposal, namely increased in demand for energy and increased generation of electromagnetic radiation emission. These long-term impacts are not considered significant or of sufficient adversity to warrant mitigation.

Visual

SMC 23.57.016 will provide sufficient mitigation for impacts.

DECISION

This decision was made after review by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21C), including the requirement to inform the public agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

- [X] Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined not to have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C).

CONDITIONS

During Construction

The following condition to be enforced during construction shall be posted at the site in a location on the property that is visible and accessible to the public and to construction from both street right-of-ways. The conditions will be affixed to placards prepared by DPD. The placards will be issued along with the building permit set of plans. The placards shall be laminated with clear plastic or other waterproofing material and shall remain posted on-site for the duration of the construction.

1. In order to further mitigate the noise impacts during construction, the hours of construction activity shall be limited to non-holiday weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. This condition may be modified by DPD to allow work of an emergency nature or allow low noise exterior work after approval from the Land Use Planner.

Signature: (signature on file) Date: October 25, 2004
Lauren Hirt, Land Use Planner
Department of Planning and Development
Land Use Services